

MULTIDIMENSIONAL SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN LATER LIFE

Briefing Paper

and

A Roadmap for Future Research and
Policy Collaboration

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Introduction

Social exclusion of older people is a critical issue for public policy, today and into the future. With 101 million older people in Europe, and a projected increase in this population to 149 million by 2050 (Eurostat 2017), demographic ageing will fundamentally determine our capacity to achieve the stated goal of a *strong social Europe*. Social exclusion is a direct detractor of this goal within European ageing societies. It undermines the efforts of member states to achieve gains in healthy life years and European Union (EU) objectives concerning active ageing. As old-age social exclusion not only impacts individuals, but their families, communities and broader societies, it exacerbates issues concerning social and welfare system effectiveness. It also impedes the promotion of inclusivity and social fairness for a population that will account for 40 per cent of our European community within 30 years (Eurostat, 2015). Given the multifaceted ways in which it can permeate society, old-age exclusion will in effect serve as a barrier to the implementation of the EU Pillar on Social Rights.

The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to raise awareness of and promote action on old-age social exclusion. We will begin by defining what old-age exclusion is, followed by a short discussion of the areas that social exclusion impacts in older age. Based on state-of-the-art research knowledge, and drawn from the work of ROSEnet members and the wider scientific community, we present eight policy messages, along with measurement, policy and research actions required for their achievement. Finally, we gather together these actions to present a roadmap to reduce multidimensional social exclusion in later life.

What is old-age social exclusion?

In its simplest form, social exclusion can be considered as the separation of individuals and groups from mainstream society (Moffatt and Glasgow, 2009). It is a multidimensional construct that can involve the accrual of disadvantages and inequalities across multiple areas of life, and domains of society (Walker and Walker, 1997). While it is often seen as an ambiguous idea, it provides a more comprehensive representation of the disadvantage that can take hold in people's lives. It also allows policy makers, practitioners and researchers to consider individual and group circumstances with respect to risk and marginalisation, and to analyse relational (breakdown or segregation of relationships) as well as distributional (distribution of resources and opportunities across a population) forms of disadvantage (Atkins, 1998). For older people there are a number of factors that can potentially exacerbate exclusion in later life, including those that reflect some of the uncertainties and changes that come with ageing, and the ways in which older people are considered, treated and represented within societal structures, norms and policies (Scharf and Keating 2012).

“Old-Age Social Exclusion is a complex process that involves interchanges between multi-level risk factors, processes and outcomes. Varying in form and degree across the older adult life course, its complexity, impact and prevalence are amplified by old-age vulnerabilities, accumulated disadvantage for some groups and constrained opportunities to ameliorate exclusion. Old-age exclusion leads to inequities in choice and control, resources and relationships, and power and rights in key domains of neighbourhood and community; services, amenities and mobility; material and financial resources; social relations; socio-cultural aspects of society; and civic participation. Old-age exclusion implicates states, societies, communities and individuals.”

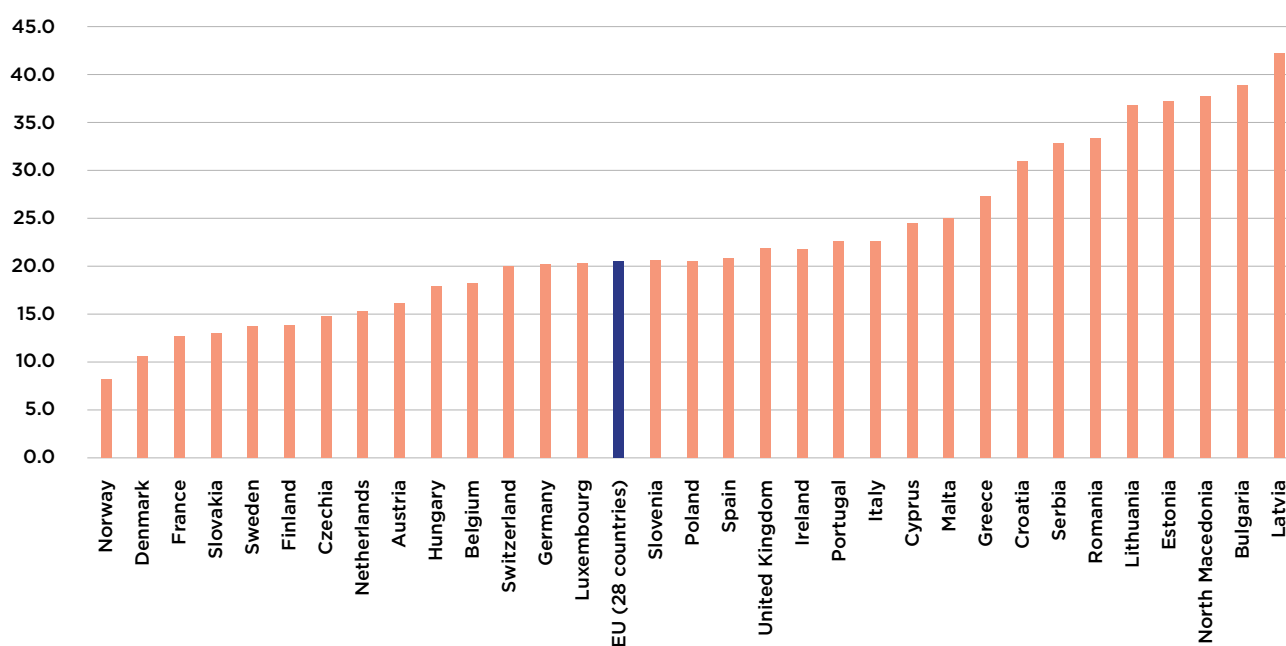
Walsh, Scharf & Keating, 2017, p.93

What areas of life can older people experience exclusion?

According to the European Commission's At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE) measure, approximately one in five (20.5%) older people (aged 55 years and over) in Europe are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This ranges from just under 9% in Norway to just over 42% in Latvia (Eurostat, 2019). While

this proportion is significant in itself, it is lower relative to other at-risk age groups (e.g. children and those of working age) within the European region. The AROPE measure, however, focuses solely on economic indicators and does not consider other forms of exclusion, or the accrual of those exclusions. In contrast, scientific research evidence argues for a broader understanding of old-age disadvantage, and one that reflects how older people can be disproportionately affected by multiple forms of exclusion (Dahlberg et al. 2019), and one that is more responsive to capturing the growing inequalities amongst the ageing population (Nazroo, 2017). Drawing on recent reviews of international scientific evidence (Van Regenmortal et al. 2016; Walsh et al. 2017), for the purposes of this Brief the forms of exclusion encountered in later life can be grouped into five domains:

Proportion of People Aged 55 Years and Over at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion



Source: EUROSTAT (2019)

1. **Economic domain:** focuses on experiences of exclusion in relation to poverty, deprivation and material resources, fuel poverty and income, employment and pensions.
2. **Social relations domain:** focuses on experiences of exclusion in relation to social networks and support, social opportunities, and social relationships and loneliness and isolation.
3. **Service domain:** focuses on experiences of exclusion in relation to health and social care services (including long-term care), information and communication technologies (ICT), transport and mobility, area-based exclusion, and general services.
4. **Community and spatial domain:** focuses on experiences of exclusion in relation to social and relational aspects of place; services, amenities and built environment; socio-economic aspects; socio-political structures; place-based policy; and crime.
5. **Civic exclusion:** focuses on exclusion in relation to civic participation (such as voting and political participation and volunteering and community involvement), and socio-cultural aspects of society such as symbolic and identity exclusion, and ageism and discrimination.

Message 1: Exclusion impacts on multiple areas of life

Social exclusion of older people can affect many parts of people's lives, with disadvantage and risk experienced by an individual in one area potentially contributing to negative outcomes in other areas. Old-age exclusion, therefore, hinders the ability of older people to participate fully in society. A coordinated and multi-sectoral, holistic approach is required to facilitate participation in later life, and to address the impacts of exclusion on individuals, families, communities and societies as a whole.

Why this message

Research shows that social exclusion of older people is multidimensional in nature and involves disadvantages that can accrue across a range of domains of life (Van Regenmortel et al. 2016). These can include, but are not exclusive to economic, social relations, services, civic (civic participation and socio-cultural aspects), and community and spatial aspects of life (Walsh et al. 2017). Older people can experience exclusion in one of these domains, or a number of these different areas simultaneously. Evidence suggests that any one domain can involve a range of different exclusion outcomes (e.g. exclusion from social relations might involve: limited social networks, a lack of social support or weak relationships). Evidence also suggests that exclusion outcomes in one domain can contribute to or trigger other forms of exclusion (e.g. economic exclusion resulting in a lack of social opportunities) (Kneale, 2012; McCleod et al. 2019).

Measurement Actions

- M1.1** Measures of old-age exclusion must assess exclusion across multiple areas of older people's lives, such as economic, social relations, services, civic, and community/spatial domains.
- M1.2** Measures must, where feasible, assess the links between different kinds of exclusion (e.g. economic and services; social and civic) to capture how different exclusion outcomes can combine to generate further disadvantage.
- M1.3** Measures must assess why exclusion in a particular area of life is occurring, identifying unmet needs, preferences and rights, rather than simple participation or usage levels.

Policy Actions

- P1.1** Integrate a multidimensional understanding of old-age exclusion into policy, moving away from a sole focus on economic disadvantage to consider multiple forms of exclusion.
- P1.2** Develop coordinated policy and practice initiatives where government departments (at national and local levels) work together to reduce multifaceted forms of old-age exclusion.
- P1.3** Create policy responses and programmes to lift older people out of exclusion that are relevant to a range of different life domains.

Research Actions

- R1.1** Explore further the ways in which different forms of exclusion combine in older people's lives, and the implications for health and well-being in later life.
- R1.2** Develop conceptual frameworks that explain the connections between different forms of exclusion and assist in identifying what kind and where interventions might be most needed.
- R1.3** Identify key causes and drivers of multidimensional exclusion, and how these factors interact with the ageing process itself to impact on the lives of older people.

Message 2: Accumulating disadvantages and groups at risk

Social exclusion of older people can arise from disadvantages accumulated over a person's life course. These disadvantages can be a result of individual life experiences, including critical life events around bereavement, ill-health and poverty. Disadvantages can also arise from group memberships and social locations, such as belonging to an ethnic or sexual minority, living with a disability or having low income and education. Addressing social exclusion calls for an understanding of these disadvantages and their intersection in older people's lives.

Why this message

Ageing is a life-long and collective process; built through choices and actions that individuals take within the opportunities and constraints of historical and social circumstances (Elder, Johnson and Crosnoe 2003; Dannefer and Settersten 2010). Later-life outcomes are not simply individual consequences, but also the consequences of a complex interrelationship between structural, cultural and interactional processes (Van Regemortel et al. 2019). Some older people are more at risk of social exclusion than others. Risk groups include older people experiencing critical life transitions and belonging to minorities (see Van Regemortel et al. 2016; Walsh et al. 2017) and people with accumulated disadvantages, e.g. family disruptions, poverty and ill-health in earlier life phases (e.g. Ferraro 2016; Kamiya et al. 2014).

Measurement Actions

- M2.1** Measures should be sensitive to potential gender, educational and culture specific characteristics and detect the inter-related nature of intersecting exclusions.
- M2.2** Measures should assess ageing as a life-long process by taking into account not only the current situation but also past life events and circumstances, such as childhood conditions.

Policy Actions

- P2.1** Account for the diversity of older populations and the individual lives of older people in policy development, giving consideration to major life events and sub-group membership.
- P2.2** Use existing knowledge of the critical life events and precarious conditions that can increase vulnerability to social exclusion, to inform the timing and nature of interventions.
- P2.3** Target the development of policies and practices for people who are most at-risk of accumulated social exclusion across the life course.

Research Actions

- R2.1** Investigate further the relationship between individual life experiences and group level factors in the exclusion of older people, in longitudinal quantitative and qualitative research.
- R2.2** Develop applied conceptual frameworks to assist in the development of effective policy and practice interventions targeted at accumulated disadvantage and critical risk points.
- R2.3** Assess how the structural positioning of different age-related social locations, interact with the ageing process and how old age is viewed in society, to influence exclusion in later life.

Message 3: Specific mechanisms of old-age exclusion

Changes related to older age, and the negative ways a society sometimes views and responds to ageing and older people, can act as powerful mechanisms that increase susceptibility to and severity of exclusion in later life. Recognising and mitigating these later life risks with policy and practice that is age-aware and age-inclusive is critical to reduce old-age exclusion.

Why this message

Research evidence identifies a number of mechanisms, which are specific to ageing, and how its positioned within social structures, that can intensify the impact and prevalence of exclusion in later life. First, with few opportunities available to older people to lift themselves out of disadvantage, exclusionary processes and outcomes can function as tipping points into marginalising circumstances (Scharf and Keating 2012). Second, changes commonly associated with later life can mean that some older adults are more likely to encounter exclusion, and more likely to be impacted in significant ways by its consequences. These changes can involve health related declines and the on-set of disability, the contraction of social and support networks, and the loss of major income generation opportunities such as work (Jehoel-Gijsbers and Vrooman, 2008). Third, experiences in later life are influenced by how ageing and older people are viewed within a given society. Research has shown that older adults can experience age discrimination and ageist attitudes across a range of life domains, with damaging consequences for individual health and well-being (Jackson et al. 2019; Burholt et al. 2019).

Measurement Actions

- M3.1** Measures of old-age exclusion must chart the impact of negative attitudes and discrimination towards older people on outcomes related to a range of life domains.
- M3.2** Measures should capture the role of age-related risk factors in constructing exclusion in later life, and dynamically track their longer-term impact on exclusion/inclusion trajectories.
- M3.3** As a part of evaluation and assessment processes, measures must actively assess if policies and systems fail to address the changing needs of individuals in later life, exacerbating the potential for exclusion.

Policy Actions

- P3.1** Existing systems must be recalibrated, based on a holistic understanding of ageing, and gerontological competencies, to address the diversity and continuum of needs in older age.
- P3.2** Old-age policy proofing is necessary to examine intended and unintended consequences of any new policies and legislation for the lives of older people.
- P3.3** A more active commitment to respond to evidence on the effects of exclusion and discrimination against older people is required in the design of policy and practice.

Research Actions

- R3.1** Develop new theoretical models to explore how the ageing process, in its objective, subjective and symbolic forms, interacts with exclusionary mechanisms in later life.
- R3.2** Investigate key life stages and turning points where age-related risks of social exclusion may begin to become more prevalent.

Message 4: Economic Exclusion

Old-age social exclusion is related to increasing economic inequalities in Europe. Resulting poor material conditions of many older people are reflected in all domains of exclusion. Current reforms of labour market and pension policies give precedence to financial sustainability and pay insufficient attention to the provision of welfare safety nets to those who stand to lose out on the introduced reforms. Such an approach can exacerbate inequalities and reinforce risks of old-age exclusion.

Why this message

Labour market and pension reforms together with related policies that have been a preoccupation of policy makers since the 1990s provide the context to accommodate this message. Labour market and pension policies affect all stages of the life course and therefore have a long-lasting effect on old-age inequality and exclusion risks. These measures need to be accompanied with reforms of the welfare safety net to protect the most vulnerable from suffering the consequences of the individualisation of risks (Standing, 2011).

Measurement Actions

- M4.1** The impact and consequences of different economic trajectories on the social circumstances of older people need to be systematically incorporated into future actions on reducing economic exclusion.
- M4.2** Broad measures of material conditions, including age-specific material deprivation indicators, should be implemented and collected on a regular basis in all Member States to monitor developments.

Policy Actions

- P4.1** When designing economic policy measures related to ageing, Member States need a coordinated approach that takes into account poverty relief jointly with policies related to improvements in quality of life in such domains as healthcare, housing, environment and social participation.

Research Actions

- R4.1** Identify how materially deprived older people can be prevented from being socially excluded.
- R4.2** Investigate the differential impact of work and other economic trajectories on experiences of multidimensional social exclusion in later life.
- R4.3** Evaluate the impact of current labour market and pension policy reforms on those most at risk of material deprivation and poverty, and those with precarious economic trajectories.

Message 5: Exclusion from Social Relations

Exclusion from social relations is a situation in which people are disconnected from adequate levels and quality of intimate relationships, social networks, social support, and/or social opportunities to participate in wider society. Since this form of exclusion is associated with reduced wellbeing, poor health and premature mortality, policy and practice should respond by supporting social relations as people age.

Why this message

Powerful research evidence points to the devastating consequences of objective disconnection (being alone) and subjective feelings of being disconnected (feeling alone) for the health and well-being of individuals, leading to increased costs for society. Drivers of being and feeling alone are on the level of the individual, the local environment and the state, and include life-course events and critical life transitions (such as retirement and becoming a widow(er)). We need a whole-system approach that takes into account multi-level drivers and the whole life course to enhance people's inclusion in supportive social networks, and reduce feelings of loneliness.

Measurement Actions

- M5.1** Measures to evaluate exclusion from social relations should encompass both objective (number of intimate social relations, level of social participation) and subjective (self-perceived) indicators.
- M5.2** Measurement should also include subgroup-analyses (e.g. ethnic minorities, migrants, LGBT groups, gender).

Policy Actions

- P5.1** Develop a new policy agenda addressing social needs in later life and person-centred approaches sensitive to different kinds of social need.
- P5.2** Develop preventative strategies and interventions targeted to support social relations at different stages of the life course and around critical life events.
- P5.3** Monitor and make publicly available data concerning levels of exclusion from social relations.

Research Actions

- R5.1** Identify pathways and risk trajectories for exclusion from social relations in different cultural and welfare contexts and compare cross countries.
- R5.2** Explore and isolate the mechanisms of exclusion from social relations for different sub-groups of the older population, with a particular focus on marginalised older populations.
- R5.3** Investigate the interaction between individual, local and state level drivers of exclusion from social relations, and the ways they shape social opportunities, network formation and maintenance and quality of social relations.

Message 6: Exclusion from Services

Exclusion from services must be tackled to secure equity in access and usage, and the appropriateness of service infrastructure, for all older people across key service domains, such as long-term care, mobility and transport, and smart services based on information and communication technologies. Including the voices of older people in design and implementation processes will enhance the relevance and impact of services and help to ensure that they address needs and facilitate fundamental participation rights in society.

Why this message

Research shows, across different service domains, that input from older users is fundamental to reducing exclusion from services (Olsson et al 2017; Shergold et al. 2012). Co-creation of services involving older users in every phase of planning and design has been shown to improve service effectiveness and enhance outcomes for service users (Schilling and Gerhardus 2017). Evidence also shows that application of digital support services can improve the quality of life of older users and reduce their exclusion in different areas, when designed to consider their needs and characteristics (Fisk et al 2009). However, research indicates that low-income, and marginalised older groups continue to experience barriers to accessing required services, compounding an already complex sets of needs – whether these are health, social connection, transport or financial needs (Stoeckel and Litwin 2015).

Measurement Actions

- M6.1** Need to assess the impact of digital services on the quality of life and the health of older users, as well as on the work-life balance of their caregivers.
- M6.2** Need to monitor the adoption of universal design (design for all) in public transportation systems, and the level of transport accessibility for older adults.
- M6.3** Need to use multifaceted quality of care and quality of life measures to chart the impact of long-term care provision on people's lives.
- M6.4** Need to monitor the degree to which older adult voices are incorporated into the design and implementation of services related to their needs and preferences.

Policy Actions

- P6.1** Account for environmental and regional variations, with respect to population density, geographic location, and urban-rural considerations.
- P6.2** Provide ICT-based service training to improve inclusion of people in later life, by strengthening also the role played by senior citizens' and self-help organisations.
- P6.3** Prioritise the development of services, such as transport and ICT-based interventions, through universal design and inclusive approaches.

Research Actions

- R6.1** Investigate the barriers to an inclusive and equal implementation of services in our ageing societies, including in long-term care, transport and mobility, and ICT-based services.
- R6.2** Test and scale-up new service development platforms that prioritise voice and equity in the design and implementation of services, with a particular focus on excluded older groups.
- R6.3** Develop more relevant assessment frameworks for older people's services, that reflect how services are used in daily life, and broad goals related to supporting social inclusion.
- R6.4** Continue to expand research knowledge on the role of individual, group and area-based diversity in service effectiveness and delivery.

Message 7: Community and Spatial Exclusion

The places where older people live influence their risk of social exclusion, by protecting against and/or exacerbating the impact of exclusionary processes. Addressing and being vigilant of the different dimensions of place, such as social and relational aspects, amenities and build environment, safety and sense of belonging, in policy development is a necessity to offer environmental support for social inclusion.

Why this message

Place is not only a location of disadvantage but represents one of the crucial domains of a person's life (Walsh 2018), with the majority of older people preferring to age in place (Andrews and Phillips 2005). Experiences in later life can be increasingly dependent upon the social and physical quality of surroundings and neighbourhoods. Spatial arrangement might have positive effects on inclusion, integration and activity, as well as restricting effects (being exclusionary, setting up physical/symbolic barriers) on older adult's quality of life and participation. The key variables being both inclusivity of the design and the (symbolic) atmosphere of public and private spaces, as well as the competencies of older adult themselves (Andrews and Phillips 2005; Oswald et al. 2003; Phillips et al. 2013; Wahl and Weisman 2003). Concepts such as age-friendly design, city and communities (Keating, Eales, and Phillips 2013; Walsh et al. 2014; WHO 2007) can be regarded as implementation applications of these approaches.

Measurement Actions

- M7.1** Need to assess objective criteria but also subjective aspects (e.g., sense of belonging, subjective safety) of place, and older people's interaction with place.
- M7.2** Need to regularly monitor the implemented actions/innovations: to assess the satisfaction and potential additional needs of seniors regarding community/spatial interventions.
- M7.3** Need to develop collaborative initiatives between policy makers, researchers, stakeholders and older adults to provide relevant and evaluated place interventions for social inclusion.

Policy Actions

- P7.1** Provide housing that serves the diversity of older adult needs and wishes (e.g. mobility issues; loneliness), including new models such as shared and intergenerational housing.
- P7.2** In order to promote place mobility and social participation, public spaces have to be socially and physically accessible, usable, attractive and safe (i.e. walkability, greenery, benches, places to meet other people, intergenerational contacts).
- P7.3** All actions must be assessed, older people-led, community rooted and inclusive (including people from minorities) in order to fully understand the variety of needs and preferences.

Research Actions

- R7.1** Examine the role of place in mediating social exclusion outcomes in later life, and assess the feasibility of harnessing this role in intervention design and development.
- R7.2** Explore 'out-of-place' and spatial ageism experiences for different older populations, with a view to informing more flexible support models across health, housing and transport.
- R7.3** Investigate the meaning of ageing in place, and the barriers and enablers, for diverse groups of older people in different place contexts.

Message 8: Civic Exclusion

Civic exclusion diminishes the voice and power of older individuals and groups, marginalising their views and homogenising their experiences within a society's institutional structures, policies and communities. It can involve exclusion from civic engagement, such as barriers to political and voluntary activity, and symbolic and identity aspects of exclusion, such as ageism and age discrimination. Addressing these exclusions is critical to ensuring the recognition and participation of older people as full members of our European societies.

Why this message

Abrams and Swift (2012) – who have studied the prevalence of ageism within Europe – found that more than 300 million people have experienced ageism. Using the European Social Survey (ESS) for 2008-2009 – which taps into the eligible residential populations aged 15 and over in 27 countries – they showed that 35% of those who answered this survey, report unfair treatment on grounds of age (much more than on grounds of gender or race, which was experienced by 24% and 16% respectively). This survey found also that “people over 70 were perceived to have the lowest status” (ibid: 83) and were least likely to be attributed with “competence” (ibid: 55).

Measurement Actions

- M8.1** Statistics on all age brackets associated with the older segment of our populations need to be collected, to secure representation of these groups, and their experiences, in official statistics.
- M8.2** Consistent monitoring of age-discrimination and ageism must take place across economic, social, services, civic, and community and spatial domains, at a national and European level.
- M8.3** Measures must capture data on all sub-groups of the older people, including those from ethnic minority, migrant and marginalised backgrounds, to enable cross-group analysis.

Policy Actions

- P8.1** Governments should take a leading role in initiating and coordinating activities that raise awareness of ageism and age discrimination.
- P8.2** Government need to educate policy makers and public servants at all levels about the ways in which attitudes about ageing affect all areas of the public sector.
- P8.3** Older people should be involved in the formulation and implementation of relevant policy at the local, regional, national and European levels.
- P8.4** Governments should start initiatives that raise the public's awareness of the heterogeneity of older people, and the fact that many of them experience exclusion in later life.

Research Actions

- R8.1** Investigate the prevalence, barriers and facilitators of civic engagement (including political participation) amongst diverse and marginalised groups of older population.
- R8.2** Explore the types and impact of identity-based social exclusion amongst older migrants, and ethnic minorities, with a particular focus on ameliorating such disadvantage.
- R8.3** Develop and test new participatory platforms for incorporating the voice and lived experience of a diverse older population, in policy and practice formulation.

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Roadmap to Reducing old-age Social Exclusion

Future Research and Policy and Collaborations

Call to account

Governments, civil society, service providers and researchers must commit to reducing social exclusion of older people and addressing the multiple forms of disadvantage that can take hold in later life. There is a need to take collective responsibility for addressing this critical issue in our ageing societies. In doing so: we must maximise commitment to cooperative action to advance innovations in policy and practice development for the reduction of old-age exclusion; we must harness intersectoral knowledge to co-produce actionable, policy agendas; and we must pursue actions to champion these policy agendas across sectors, exploiting opportunities offered by extant European policy frameworks, scheduled policy consultations and global campaigns for change. It is on this basis that we present a roadmap to reducing old-age social exclusion through collaborations in research and policy. Drawing on the ROSEnet policy messages on multidimensional social exclusion, the roadmap offers a three strand approach across measurement, research and policy actions to combat social exclusion for older people in European societies. It proposes the following actions:

Exclusion impacts on multiple areas of life

No	Actions
Measurement	
M1.1	Measures of old-age exclusion must assess exclusion across multiple areas of older people's lives, such as economic, social relations, services, civic, and community/spatial domains.
M1.2	Measures must, where feasible, assess the links between different kinds of exclusion (e.g. economic and services; social and civic) to capture how different exclusion outcomes can combine to generate further disadvantage.
M1.3	Measures must assess why exclusion in a particular area of life is occurring, identifying unmet needs, preferences and rights, rather than simple participation or usage levels.
Policy	
P1.1	Integrate a multidimensional understanding of old-age exclusion into policy, moving away from a sole focus on economic disadvantage to consider multiple forms of exclusion.
P1.2	Develop coordinated policy and practice initiatives where government departments (at national and local levels) work together to reduce multifaceted forms of old-age exclusion.
P1.3	Create policy responses and programmes to lift older people out of exclusion that are relevant to a range of different life domains.
Research	
R1.1	Explore further the ways in which different forms of exclusion combine in older people's lives, and the implications for health and well-being in later life.
R1.2	Develop conceptual frameworks that explain the connections between different forms of exclusion and assist in identifying what kind and where interventions might be most needed.
R1.3	Identify key causes and drivers of multidimensional exclusion, and how these factors interact with the ageing process itself to impact on the lives of older people.

Accumulating disadvantages and risk groups

No	Actions
Measurement	
M2.1	Measures should be sensitive to potential gender, educational and culture specific characteristics and detect the inter-related nature of intersecting exclusions.
M2.2	Measures should assess ageing as a life-long process by taking into account not only the current situation but also past life events and circumstances, such as childhood conditions.
Policy	
P2.1	Account for the diversity of older populations and the individual lives of older people in policy development, giving consideration to major life events and sub-group membership.
P2.2	Use existing knowledge of the critical life events and precarious conditions that can increase vulnerability to social exclusion, to inform the timing and nature of interventions.
P2.3	Target the development of policies and practices for people who are most at-risk of accumulated social exclusion across the life course.
Research	
R2.1	Investigate further the relationship between individual life experiences and group level factors in the exclusion of older people, in longitudinal quantitative and qualitative research.
R2.2	Develop applied conceptual frameworks to assist in the development of effective policy and practice interventions targeted at accumulated disadvantage and critical risk points.
R2.3	Assess how the structural positioning of different age-related social locations, interact with the ageing process and how old age is viewed in society, to influence exclusion in later life.

Specific mechanisms of old-age exclusion

No	Actions
Measurement	
M3.1	Measures of old-age exclusion must chart the impact of negative attitudes and discrimination towards older people on outcomes related to a range of life domains.
M3.2	Measures should capture the role of age-related risk factors in constructing exclusion in later life, and dynamically track their longer-term impact on exclusion/inclusion trajectories.
M3.3	As a part of evaluation and assessment processes, measures must actively assess if policies and systems fail to address the changing needs of individuals in later life, exacerbating the potential for exclusion.
Policy	
P3.1	Existing systems must be recalibrated, based on a holistic understanding of ageing, and gerontological competencies, to address the diversity and continuum of needs in older age.
P3.2	Old-age policy proofing is necessary to examine intended and unintended consequences of any new policies and legislation for the lives of older people.
P3.3	A more active commitment to respond to evidence on the effects of exclusion and discrimination against older people is required in the design of policy and practice.
Research	
R3.1	Develop new theoretical models to explore how the ageing process, in its objective, subjective and symbolic forms, interacts with exclusionary mechanisms in later life.
R3.2	Investigate key life stages and turning points where age-related risks of social exclusion may begin to become more prevalent.

Economic Exclusion

No	Actions
Measurement	
M4.1	The impact and consequences of different economic trajectories on the social circumstances of older people need to be systematically incorporated into future actions on reducing economic exclusion.
M4.2	Broad measures of material conditions, including age-specific material deprivation indicators, should be implemented and collected on a regular basis in all Member States to monitor developments.
Policy	
P4.1	When designing economic policy measures related to ageing, Member States need a coordinated approach that takes into account poverty relief jointly with policies related to improvements in quality of life in such domains as healthcare, housing, environment and social participation.
Research	
R4.1	Identify how materially deprived older people can be prevented from being socially excluded.
R4.2	Investigate the differential impact of work and other economic trajectories on experiences of multidimensional social exclusion in later life.
R4.3	Evaluate the impact of current labour market and pension policy reforms on those most at risk of material deprivation and poverty, and those with precarious economic trajectories.

Exclusion from Social Relations

No	Actions
Measurement	
M5.1	Measures to evaluate exclusion from social relations should encompass both objective (number of intimate social relations, level of social participation) and subjective (self-perceived) indicators.
M5.2	Measurement should also include subgroup-analyses (e.g. ethnic minorities, migrants, LGBT groups, gender).
Policy	
P5.1	Develop a new policy agenda addressing social needs in later life and person-centred approaches sensitive to different kinds of social need.
P5.2	Develop preventative strategies and interventions targeted to support social relations at different stages of the life course and around critical life events.
P5.3	Monitor and make publicly available data concerning levels of exclusion from social relations.
Research	
R5.1	Identify pathways and risk trajectories for exclusion from social relations in different cultural and welfare contexts and compare cross countries.
R5.2	Explore and isolate the mechanisms of exclusion from social relations for different sub-groups of the older population, with a particular focus on marginalised older populations.
R5.3	Investigate the interaction between individual, local and state level drivers of exclusion from social relations, and the ways they shape social opportunities, network formation and maintenance and quality of social relations.

Exclusion from Services

No	Actions
Measurement	
M6.1	Need to assess the impact of digital services on the quality of life and the health of older users, as well as on the work-life balance of their caregivers.
M6.2	Need to monitor the adoption of universal design (design for all) in public transportation systems, and the level of transport accessibility for older adults.
M6.3	Need to use multifaceted quality of care and quality of life measures to chart the impact of long-term care provision on people's lives.
M6.4	Need to monitor the degree to which older adult voices are incorporated into the design and implementation of services related to their needs and preferences.
Policy	
P6.1	Account for environmental and regional variations, with respect to population density, geographic location, and urban-rural considerations.
P6.2	Provide ICT-based service training to improve inclusion of people in later life, by strengthening also the role played by senior citizens' and self-help organisations.
P6.3	Prioritise the development of services, such as transport and ICT-based interventions, through universal design and inclusive approaches.
Research	
R6.1	Investigate the barriers to an inclusive and equal implementation of services in our ageing societies, including in long-term care, transport and mobility, and ICT-based services.
R6.2	Test and scale-up new service development platforms that prioritise voice and equity in the design and implementation of services, with a particular focus on excluded older groups.
R6.3	Develop more relevant assessment frameworks for older people's services, that reflect how services are used in daily life, and broad goals related to supporting social inclusion.
R6.4	Continue to expand research knowledge on the role of individual, group and area-based diversity in service effectiveness and delivery.

Community and Spatial Exclusion

No	Actions
Measurement	
M7.1	Need to assess objective criteria but also subjective aspects (e.g., sense of belonging, subjective safety) of place, and older people's interaction with place.
M7.2	Need to regularly monitor the implemented actions/innovations: to assess the satisfaction and potential additional needs of seniors regarding community/spatial interventions.
M7.3	Need to develop collaborative initiatives between policy makers, researchers, stakeholders and older adults to provide relevant and evaluated place interventions for social inclusion.
Policy	
P7.1	Provide housing that serves the diversity of older adult needs and wishes (e.g. mobility issues; loneliness), including new models such as shared and intergenerational housing.
P7.2	In order to promote place mobility and social participation, public spaces have to be socially and physically accessible, usable, attractive and safe (i.e., walkability, greenery, benches, places to meet other people, intergenerational contacts).
P7.3	All actions must be assessed, older people-led, community rooted and inclusive (including people from minorities) in order to fully understand the variety of needs and preferences.
Research	
R7.1	Examine the role of place in mediating social exclusion outcomes in later life, and assess the feasibility of harnessing this role in intervention design and development.
R7.2	Explore 'out-of-place' and spatial ageism experiences for different older populations, with a view to informing more flexible support models across health, housing and transport.
R7.3	Investigate the meaning of ageing in place, and the barriers and enablers, for diverse groups of older people in different place contexts.

Civic Exclusion

No	Actions
Measurement	
M8.1	Statistics on all age brackets associated with the older segment of our populations need to be collected, to secure representation of these groups, and their experiences, in official statistics.
M8.2	Consistent monitoring of age-discrimination and ageism must take place across economic, social, services, civic, and community and spatial domains, at a national and European level.
M8.3	Measures must capture data on all sub-groups of the older people, including those from ethnic minority, migrant and marginalised backgrounds, to enable cross-group analysis.
Policy	
P8.1	Governments should take a leading role in initiating and coordinating activities that raise awareness of ageism and age discrimination.
P8.2	Government need to educate policy makers and public servants at all levels about the ways in which attitudes about ageing affect all areas of the public sector.
P8.3	Older people should be involved in the formulation and implementation of relevant policy at the local, regional, national and European levels.
P8.4	Governments should start initiatives that raise the public's awareness of the heterogeneity of older people, and the fact that many of them experience exclusion in later life.
Research	
R8.1	Investigate the prevalence, barriers and facilitators of civic engagement (including political participation) amongst diverse and marginalised groups of older population.
R8.2	Explore the types and impact of identity-based social exclusion amongst older migrants, and ethnic minorities, with a particular focus on ameliorating such disadvantage.
R8.3	Develop and test new participatory platforms for incorporating the voice and lived experience of a diverse older population, in policy and practice formulation.

ROSEnet CA15122 COST ACTION

ROSEnet aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps in conceptual innovation on old-age exclusion across the life course, in order to address the research-policy disconnect and tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe.

Research Objectives

- Synthesise existing knowledge from regional, disciplinary and sectorally disparate dialogues, forming a coherent scientific discourse on old-age exclusion;
- Critically investigate the construction of life-course old-age exclusion across economic, social, service, civic rights, and community/spatial domains;
- Assess the implications of old-age exclusion across the life course within economic, social, service, civic rights, and community/spatial domains;
- Develop new conceptual and theoretical frameworks that can be practically applied in understanding and combating the exclusion of older people in European societies;
- Identify innovative, and implementable, policy and practice for reducing old-age exclusion amongst different groups of older people and in different jurisdictional and regional contexts.

For further information please visit:

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